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Period 1

The Roaring Twenties

There is a reason that the twenties were considered “roaring”, they were a loud time full of music, literature, communication, and all sorts of different social and technological progress that came with the end of the first world war. There were many changes in America at this point in time, the suffrage granted to women, the rise of gangs due to the illegal trade of alcohol since the passing of the 18th amendment, and the invention of film as well as radio. The twenties moved extremely quick for its decade, completely revolutionizing women’s culture as soon as the 19th amendment was added onto the constitution.

Silent movies were a new form of spending leisure time in the twenties, due to the lack of audio in the movie, as well as the lack of dialogue given on-screen, the imagination of the viewer is what drove the entertainment of film to the maximum, the same goes with the radio; a person can hear what's going on when listening to a radio program but it is up to the person’s imagination to envision what is being said. The radio provided a new, much more efficient form of distributing important information and news throughout America, making America more unified if anything. Also, many films created at this point in time are considered to be some of the best ever made - clearly the films have aged well and are still as potent as they were in their prime.

Automobiles were a huge innovation for America’s citizens, changing transportation as well as literally paving roads to reach new destinations. The automobile was a huge success and the fact that with the solid income being given as well as lowered prices on the cars, they sold quicker than ever before and only 3% of the urban population was still using horses to navigate. Airplanes were improved and were much more efficient than in WW1 due to the production time they now had, and now with the extended weight capacity, more people were able to fit inside the planes. Meanwhile, in the home, new kitchen appliances were leaving much more leisure time in the hands of women since they needed to spend less time completing household tasks.

Women were changing drastically, the younger generation of women became very free spirited,, listening to jazz and dancing; spending time with lovers in speakeasies. These new women were called flappers, they dressed in much less conservative dresses with shorts skirts for maneuverability for their new jobs that they have recently gained access to.

Literature and music during this time mainly related to the new sensation of jazz music. Jazz influenced art and music with its distinct tone from any music heard before in the United States. Black culture was quickly excelling besides the obvious form of expression jazz, but also in the Harlem Renaissance where the African American community had a boom of art and expression with many famous writers rising up to express themselves to the eye of the white man in hopes of opposing racism.

Finally, the streets of Chicago was flowing with corruption and violence at the hands of Al Capone who was leading the underground alcohol trading business. Since the adoption of the 18th amendment, alcohol had been outlawed throughout all of the United States, however this only allowed a new type of illegal trading to arise and Al Capone began gaining millions of dollars a year and he could make anyone turn a blind eye with how much money he had to offer for bribes. He used his money and power to control territory with his gang and even influence political figures.

In conclusion, the Roaring Twenties brought huge success in America and was a good point in time to gain technological advances in order to prepare for the next world war, which would be happening soon.